

## **BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the proceedings of the Ordinary meeting of the BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in YSGOL MERLLYN, Bagillt, on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

**PRESENT : Councillor C.P. Owens (Chairman)**

**COUNCILLORS** : B.T. Doleman, A. Griffiths, R.K. Jones, S.M. Manfredi, T. Renshaw, C.R. Williams, J. Williams and T.M. Withington.

**APOLOGIES** : Councillors Mrs. N.M. Jones, Mrs. S.L. Jones and M.A. Reece.

**IN ATTENDANCE** : Mr. G. Roberts (Clerk) and Mr. David Palmer, Census Co-ordinator (minute No. 136).

### **135. AGENDA ORDER**

The Chairman advised that there would be no Police presence and that Mr. Richard Lovelace, Project Director, would not be attending this meeting to report on the Housing Ballot Project, but would attend the next one to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Accordingly, he proposed that the Agenda order be changed so that the first item would be a presentation by Mr. David Palmer on the Census 2011 and then to proceed with the Public Inquiry item, given that there were five members of the public present. The meeting agreed with the suggestion of the Chairman.

### **136. CENSUS 2011**

Mr. David Palmer indicated that he was the Census Co-ordinator and proceeded to give details of the area covered. Census day was 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011, and forms were being despatched to every resident by post. There would be a follow-up after a period of 14 days for those who had not returned their completed forms, for the purpose of offering assistance, and this would involve calls by his team of staff, who would be appropriately identified. He indicated that for the last Census held in 2001 there had been a 94% completion rate for the Flintshire area. In addition, he informed the meeting that no data arising from the Census would be going outside the United Kingdom and that, for research purposes, the information collated could not be publicly accessed for 100 years. The legislation covering these aspects was briefly outlined.

In the follow-up period after Census day, he would be arranging events at appropriate locations so as to address any concerns residents may have on completing the forms, as it was recognised that some were reluctant to allow access to their homes for security purposes. He indicated that he had passed his contact details to the Clerk, should any further information be required, and also a number of posters to be displayed on the Council Notice Boards.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Palmer for attending the meeting and informing Members of the process.

### **137. PUBLIC INQUIRY ITEM – BAGILLT FORESHORE**

There were five members of the public present and the spokesman indicated that they were from the Friends of Bagillt Foreshore Group (FOBF), and had a letter to read out to the meeting. They advised that they had been disappointed not to receive financial assistance from the Council at their last meeting towards the cost of funding their Feasibility Study, to enable improvements to the Foreshore, They also wished to clarify a few issues regarding grant applications, but to state clearly that FOBF had a very good working relationship with the Rangers at Flintshire Countryside Services and were working with them on many issues, including raising funds for the Feasibility Study.

They were requesting clarification on grant applications so that they did not miss out in the future. Firstly, the correct procedure for submission, including if they could be submitted on the evening of the meeting and did Bank statements and Articles of Association have to be submitted? In response, the Clerk reminded the meeting that applications were dealt with at the October and February meetings, if there were still funds left for the latter, and that appropriate financial details needed to be received also, apart from the two Schools and the Youth Centre. Articles of Association were not required.

Secondly, FOBF were requesting the rules concerning Members' interest as, even if the grant in question was less than £500, do they declare it as a matter of information and openness of respect for fair decision making for other Members of the Council? The Clerk responded indicating that when the new Code of Conduct came into use in 2008 following WAG legislation it changed the situation whereby Members as Community Councillors were not required to declare a personal interest in relation to a grant, loan or other form of financial assistance made by the Council to community or voluntary organisations up to a maximum of £500. Previously it meant all applications had required Members to declare an interest no matter what the level of assistance being granted, and this had caused difficulties for many Local Councils given the involvement by their Members in local organisations. It was a matter for a Member to decide whether or not to declare a personal interest and the Clerk confirmed that at the last meeting he had reminded those present about the £500 limit.

Thirdly, would a Group such as FOBF be disadvantaged if there was no member of the group at the meeting to plead their case for the grant? In response, the Clerk indicated that many groups who did not have any Councillor involvement had been successful in obtaining financial assistance from the Council.

Councillor J. Williams made reference to the printed information on the website concerning Applications for Financial Assistance, particularly the fact that they were required to be received 14 days before the meeting, including financial

details. In response, the Chairman indicated that, whilst this was the intended aim of the Council in the details to assist those wishing to apply, it was always open for the Chairman at the time to allow a further application to be considered, providing financial details were included, and then it was a matter for the Council to determine the application. Councillor B.T. Doleman indicated that he had requested clarification at the last meeting from the Clerk concerning the matter of personal interest regarding the application he had submitted on behalf of the Bagillt Heritage Society (BHS) and that when it came to the discussion on their application, after all the others had been considered, neither he or the Chairman had voted. Reference was made by Councillor J. Williams to a discussion between Mike Taylor of the Countryside Services and Councillor Mike Reece regarding the decision not to grant financial assistance to FOBF when it had been suggested by the former that the Heritage Society should be approached to return the monies granted. The Clerk confirmed that he had been informed of this information by Councillor Mike Reece, who had not been at the last meeting when the decision had been made, and had advised him that the cheque had already been forwarded to BHS.

In relation to Mike Taylor, reference was made to an e-mail received from him concerning the Bagillt Foreshore, referring to both the FOBF and BHS. In relation to the Feasibility Study for the holy and adjacent ground, Flintshire County Council had committed £1,000 to this project and the FOBF had received £500 from Kingspan, with a total cost expected to be in the region of £5,000. As far as his team were concerned, they would support funding where possible with BHS, as they had common interests, but they would not put one group above the other and events and activities were now being planned by the FOBF. Around £140,000 was being spent on access works and a viewpoint by the holy over the next few weeks, but unfortunately permission from Network Rail had prevented full completion of plans of a cycleway from the Scrapyard to Bagillt Station. A new panel had gone on the hilltop and they were carrying out habitat works for the hedgerow project and had a proposal to introduce the Natterjack Toad. United Utilities were planning to consolidate the Milwr Tunnel outlet.

Reference was made by Councillor R.K. Jones to previous correspondence with the Environment Agency in relation to flood strategy and defence. The Council had raised issues regarding the information that had been received and had requested a representative to attend a future meeting of the Council.

## **138. MINUTES**

The following comments were made on the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

### **a. Minute No. 120(b) – Estimates**

The Clerk advised the meeting that he had received confirmation from Councillor Mrs. S.L. Jones that their group's application to FLVC, for

funding in connection with the Walwen Play Area Improvement, had been successful and was intended to match that being provided by this Council and Flintshire County Council. The Clerk also advised the meeting of a letter received from Flintshire County Council indicating that Welsh Assembly Government had confirmed that a grant to fund play development in Flintshire had been approved for 2011/12, which would mean that, in partnership with this Authority, the Summer Playscheme Programme for the next financial year would be delivered unchanged to that of previous years.

**b. Minute No. 124 – Bagillt Foreshore**

Councillor B.T. Doleman advised that the Bagillt Heritage Society had received verbal approval from both the Housing Association and Flintshire County Council concerning the replacement of a plaque on Foresters Hall. The final approval awaited details of the actual plaque to be submitted.

**c. Minute No. 133 – Wales Training Bursary**

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Council had been successful in its application for a Training Bursary in respect of two Society of Local Council Clerks conferences being attended by the Clerk in March and June and the monies had been forwarded to the Council's Bank account.

**RESOLVED :**

That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011 be confirmed as correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**139. REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES**

The Chairman advised that a meeting of the Flintshire County Forum would be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at Connah's Quay and, as he was no longer able to attend, the Vice-Chairman had been requested to do so, along with the Clerk.

**140. PLANNING**

**a. Applications Determined – Planning On-Line Consultation Period**

No.	Location	Detail
048285	42 Nant y Glyn	Two storey side extension

It was noted that the proposal had been supported.

**b. Applications**

No.	Location	Detail
048214	Kingdom Hall, existing meeting place and High Street replacement single storey	Demolition of erection of meeting place.
048346	Pen y Bryn Residential extension and alterations Home, Top Hill Home.	Erection of link to existing Care Home.
048337	Boot Garage, Bagillt MOT office to Chip Road and small Café.	Change of use from Shop, Takeaway

**RESOLVED :**

1. That applications 048214 and 048337 be supported.
2. That in respect of application 048346, the application neither be supported or objected to, but concerns be expressed regarding the increase in size, parking and access arrangements to the site, particularly for larger emergency vehicles.

**c. Roadrunner Waste, Deebank Industrial Estate**

The Clerk advised that further to the three withdrawn applications reported to the last meeting, Flintshire County Council had indicated one was a procedural aspect, as it had been replaced by another of those withdrawn. The applicant was in the process of submitting two revised applications to cover the main and satellite sites, to take into account comments previously received on the withdrawn proposals.

The Chairman suggested that, in view of the previous history with this site, it would be prudent once again to invite the appropriate Flintshire Officer to address a future meeting concerning the planning situation at Roadrunner Waste, and he was supported by the Members.

**RESOLVED :**

That the appropriate Planning Officer of Flintshire County Council be requested to address a future meeting of the Council in relation to Roadrunner Waste.

**d. Appeal – Twll y Llwynog – Old Bagillt Road**

The Clerk reported on a letter received from Flintshire County Council advising that an Inspector had been appointed to determine application 047705 relating to a Certificate of Lawful Use or Development or existing use of a building as a dwelling. The public Inquiry date was 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011 and it was reported that this Council had previously supported the application.

**RESOLVED :**

That the appeal arrangements be noted.

**141. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

That the following accounts be paid :-

<b>Name</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Expenditure Powers</b>
AON Ltd. 1976(S.19)	1,063.90	101391	Loc.Govt.(MP)Act
Mr. G. Roberts	840.05	101392	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)
H.M. Revenue & Customs	205.14	101393	Loc.Govt.Act 1972 (S.112)

**142. PROPOSED CLOSURE OF BAGILLT BRANCH LIBRARY**

Councillor R.K. Jones indicated he had still not received the requested breakdown of details relating to the staffing costs in relation to the Bagillt Branch Library. In addition, he made reference to a press article regarding discussions at a Scrutiny Committee which appeared to indicate that the decision had been taken prior to the final decision on the budget, and even when the consultation was offered it was minimal. He also expressed disappointment that the Member for Bagillt East Electoral Division on the County Council, who was not present today, had supported the budget which included the closure of the Library in Bagillt. In support of these comments, Councillor T. Renshaw advised that he had actually attended the budget decision debate at County Hall and made reference to a letter sent in by Councillor M.A. Reece, who was unable to be present, which had been read out by the Chief Executive, and was in support of retaining the Library provision. He also made reference to the closeness of the decision which was by recorded vote and to the fact that an alternative budget put forward by the Labour Group on the County Council had been confirmed by the Section151 Officer as being both achievable and legal.

Councillor R.K. Jones referred to the fact that of the five small Libraries which had been due for closure one had been reprieved, that at Queensferry. Whilst he had no complaint regarding this decision, the petition to retain the Bagillt Library

had received more than 700 signatures, which was more than twice as many as that for Queensferry. He suggested that further representations should be made to Flintshire County Council requesting the detailed breakdown of staffing costs and also comments regarding the future use of the building, whether it be involving this Authority or a third party, or a mixture, as well as previously requested information in relation to a possible service legal agreement.

**RESOLVED :**

That further representations be made to Flintshire County Council, as suggested by the Vice-Chairman,

**143. BORROWING BY TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS FOR 2011/12**

Further to discussion at the last meeting, Members had been previously circulated with a response from One Voice Wales on issues raised with them concerning the definition of capital expenditure and funding sources. Capital expenditure was defined as the acquisition, construction enhancement of land, buildings, vehicles, plant and equipment. In addition, the provision of grant aid for such expenditure from another Body would in many cases also be within the definition of capital expenditure. Whilst the Council could go for funds to other funding sources such as Banks, it would be difficult to beat the terms and conditions offered by PWLB, upon which Members had received details at the last meeting.

**RESOLVED :**

That the information from One Voice Wales be noted.

**144. ENGERGY SAVING TRUST**

The meeting considered information received from the Energy Saving Trust, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members. It was introducing the Council to the Welsh Assembly Government Ynni'r Fro Programme, as it was felt Town and Community Councils played an important role in promoting social enterprise. he programme was to promote the development of community scale renewable energy and details were given in the letter of the assistance offered.

Reference was made by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to a possible turbine initiative to produce power and to the present difficulties in relation to the site, which may preclude the owners going forward with any scheme.

**RESOLVED :**

That the information from Energy Savings Trust be noted.

**145. PLAYGROUND FUNDING SUPPORT**

Information from Kompan had previously been circulated to Members, who may wish to make it available to community groups.

**RESOLVED :**

That the matter be noted.

**146. MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Clerk reported on a letter received from Flintshire County Council, advising that the second meeting for Clerks and Members of Town and Community Councils to meet with Flintshire Standards Committee would be held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at 6.30 p.m. at Mostyn Community Centre. The Chairman advised that unfortunately he would be unable to attend. It was noted that the Vice-Chairman would endeavour to attend along with the Clerk.

**147. EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI – JAPAN**

Councillor R.K. Jones referred to the information on television reports concerning the death and destruction caused in Japan due to a major earthquake which had also caused a significant Tsunami. It was agreed that the Council's sympathy for those people in the affected parts of Japan should be recorded.

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH BAGILLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S  
CODE OF CONDUCT**

<b>Date of Council Meeting</b>	<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011</b>	
<b>Member</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Minute No. Refers</b>
There were no declarations of personal interest		

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**Chairman**